

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CPR-01 SAJ-01 EB-07 /077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9599

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONGEN MUNICH

USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL BUCHAREST 5356

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RO, PDIP, CH, US

SUBJ: ROMANIAN ACTIVITIES ON DEATH OF PRC CHAIRMAN

MAO TSE-TUNG

REF: STATE 223128

1. MAO'S DEATH WAS OVERSHADOWED IN LOCAL PRESS BY INTENSE COVERAGE OF CEAUSESCU'S VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA. NEVERTHELESS, SCINTEIA SEPTEMBER 10 CARRIED FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPH OF MAO PLUS NCNA REPORTS, VIA AGERPRES, OF DEATH, FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS, AND PRC LEADERSHIP'S MESSAGE TO CHINESE PEOPLE. SCINTEIA ALSO CARRIED TEXT OF LENGTHY TELEGRAM FROM CEAUSESCU, THEN IN YUGOSLAVIA, TO PRC PARTY, STATE, AND PEOPLE EXPRESSING ROMANIA'S "MOST SINCERE CONDOLENCES." TELEGRAM WARMLY PRAISED MAO FOR HIS LEFELONG "ANTI-IMPERIALIST, ANTI-COLONIALIST, AND ANTI-NEOCOLONIALIST STRUGGLE." NO STORIES CONFIDENTIAL

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PRINTED SCINTEIA SEPTEMBER 11, BUT SEPTEMBER 12 ISSUE REPORTS

VISIT TO CEAUSESCU AND 28 SENIOR PARTY AND STATE LEADERS TO CHINESE EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY UPON FORMER'S RETURN FROM YUGOSLAVIA. SCINTEIA ALSO REPORTED THAT GREAT NUMBER OF MIDDLE-LEVEL PARTY AND STATE OFFICIALS, INDUSTRIAL MANAGERS, STUDENTS, AND ACADEMICIANS HAD SIGNED CONDOLENCE BOOK AT EMBASSY. SCINTEIA ALSO PRINTED STORY FROM ITS PEKING CORRESPONDENT CONCERNING INTERNAL OBSERVANCES WITHIN CHINA OF MAO'S DEATH, AS WELL AS TEXTS OF MESSAGES TO PRC FROM MANY WORLD LEADERS. SCINTEIA SEPTEMBER 14 CARRIED FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL ON MAO'S LIFE, PLUS SEVERAL SUBSIDIARY STORIES INCLUDING PRESENTATION OF WREATH IN CEAUSESCU'S NAME IN PEKING CEREMONIES.

2. PRC EMBASSY DISTRIBUTED CIRCULAR NOTE SEPTEMBER 10 INVITING DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO SIGN CONDOLENCE BOOK. FOLLOWING USUAL PRACTICE HERE, WE DID NOT RECEIVE NOTE, NOR DO WE PLAN TO SIGN BOOK. CHARGE WILL EXPRESS CONDOLENCES DIRECTLY TO PRC AMBASSADOR AT NEXT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY.

3. COMMENT. GOR RESPONSE TO MAO'S DEATH IS UNPRECEDENTED IN VIEW OF KNOWLEDGEABLE FOREIGN OBSERVERS HERE. GIVEN RECENT MORE CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN GOR AND USSR, CEAUSESCU MAY ALSO BE USING OCCASION TO SIGNAL THAT GOR DOES NOT PLAN TO FOREGO GAINS WON THROUGH ADROIT BALANCING ACT IN WHICH PRC PLAYS IMPORTANT ROLE.

VIETS

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